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Miss Helena Tymchenko with part of the pile of Vietnam stockings she stashed in the office of her boss, Dr. Verdi Carsten.

Hygienists' project

Stockings for Vietnam

"As you know," writes Miss Lorraine Miller, a member of the Syracuse Dental Hygienists Association now stationed with the USO in Seoule, "each year thousands of Christmas gifts and goodies are sent to our men in Vietnam.

"Items such as candies, fruitcakes and small gifts are received by the USO so that servicemen may have a better Christmas. We here at the USO are planning to set up a refreshments table beginning the week before Christmas, continuing until January first. We also hope to have enough small gifts to distribute to some of the troops in the demilitarized zone, and maybe make their Christmas a little brighter.

Goodies Requested

"As you can imagine, we will be unable to do this unless we have the support of the American people. Would it be possible to ask some clubs and people in your area to send a few gifts and goodies our way this year? It would be appreciated so much if they could."

After the girls in the local association received this letter, they obtained names of local servicemen from the Volunteer Center, and began "talking it up," according to Miss Helena Tymchenko and Miss Mary Kay Hellenbrand who were appointed chairmen and cochairmen of the project.

200 Filled

The result?

Enough to stockpile 200 stockings full of toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, combs, pens, stationery, blades, wallet size calendars and candy. Onondaga Dental Association helped, as did Dental hygiene students at Onondaga Community College, the Norton Star Dental Supply Co., Lincoln Bank, The Colgate Company and American Safety Razor Company plus many, many individuals.

The stockings are packed, and they'll be on their way within a day or two, with "a wish for a Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with hope and peace."

One more thing. The association reports you don't need a name to send a gift through the USO to Vietnam.

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Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/snjk0000